

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing regarding Time Warner's request to spin off its cable division. I object to Time Warner's nationwide distribution of pornography through its pay-per-view cable service. When considering the spin-off request, the FCC should require that Time Warner cease the distribution of programming that is harmful to families and communities. Numerous studies show that pornography encourages distorted and unhealthy views of sexuality, particularly for deviant or violent types. Pornography encourages the sexual exploitation of women. Pornography devalues the importance of marriage as a beneficial and lasting institution for the good of society. Pornography negatively affects children, families and society through increased rates of divorce, sexual abuse and the sexualization of young people.

"The curiously toxic nature of pornography is also illustrated by the consistently negative impact that sex businesses have upon the areas in which they are located. This impact of sexually oriented businesses (SOBs) has been clearly demonstrated through land use studies.

&#9830; Austin, TX -- 1986 - in four study areas with SOBs, sexually related crimes were 177% to 482% higher than the city's average.

&#9830; Indianapolis, IN -- 1984-1986 - Between 1978-1982, crime in study areas was 46% higher than for the city as a whole. Sex related crimes were four times greater when SOBs were located near residential areas vs. commercial areas.

&#9830; Garden Grove, CA -- 1981-1990 - On Garden Grove Blvd., seven adult businesses accounted for 36% of all crime in the area. In one case, a bar opened within 500 feet of an SOB and serious crime within 1000 feet of that business rose 300% during the next year.

&#9830; Phoenix, AZ -- 1978 - Sex offenses, including indecent exposure, were 506% greater in neighborhoods with SOBs. Even excluding indecent exposure, the sex offenses were still 132% greater in those neighborhoods.

&#9830; Whittier, CA -- In comparison studies of two residential areas conducted between 1970-1973 before SOBs, and 1974-1977 after SOBs, malicious mischief increased 700%, assault increased 387%, prostitution increased 300%, and all theft increased 120%."

"Dr. William Marshall and Dr. Gene Abel have published important research with child molesters, rapists and other sexual offenders.<sup>49</sup> Abel's research indicated that more than 50% of sex offenders used pornography, and that offenders who used it were less able to control their behavior than those who did not. Abel's findings contradicted the "safety-valve" or "catharsis" theory (which has basically died from lack of supporting evidence in the last twenty years). Marshall found that, in a study of outpatient sex offenders treated over a six-year period, one-third reported they had used pornography immediately before at least one of their crimes.

"In the case of pornography, the preponderance of the evidence clearly demonstrates that the material is not just harmless fun. Although almost all men are attracted by it, there are clearly perils associated with its use which no doubt explains why so many men are willing to resist their own hormones and try to keep away from pornography. Pornography is not about real human sexuality: it's about a dehumanized, synthetic version of sex that eliminates love, honor, dignity, true intimacy and commitment. The image of sexuality offered by pornography comes without relationships, responsibility or consequences; a largely fraudulent picture. Porn movies never show a girlfriend getting pregnant at 16, or a young man getting AIDS or a married man resisting the temptation of another woman. Unfortunately, the research demonstrates that pornography's fraudulent messages are ingested, affecting attitudes and behavior. Countless studies show that the basic messages of pornography that a woman's function is to satisfy a man sexually, that women have no value, no meaning, and their desires and needs are irrelevant, breed sexual callousness and acceptance of the rape myth (i.e. that women secretly desire to be raped). These are the attitudes that lead to sexual harassment, failed relationships, early promiscuity and the spread of STDs. And, unless one believes that attitudes and behaviors are unrelated, it is difficult then to be surprised by the evidence of correlation between pornography usage and sexually abusive behaviors. We protect ourselves and our communities, in part, through the values we affirm as important. Treating every human being with respect, equality, and dignity, are values we should all be able to embrace, as a society and as individuals. The harms of pornography result from replacing respect, equality and dignity with a candy-coated message of hate."

Just Harmless Fun?

By Bruce Watson and Shyla Rae Welch

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Please consider the repercussions of pornography within our society and especially influence and effect on the future of our children.

Sincerely,

Tina Diedrick